NNNNVV FSB[illegible]
DD RUCMHR
DE RUTHNA #6927 [illegible]
ZNY SSSSS ZZB
O [illegible]
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE [illegible]
INFO RUEHRC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA [illegible]
RUSBQI/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD [illegible]
RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL [illegible]
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW [illegible]
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI [illegible]
RUENOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA [illegible]
RUCMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN [illegible]
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO [illegible]
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON [illegible]
BT
SECRET USNATO 6927

LIMDIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 [illegible] WITMAN, MAYNARD [illegible]
TAGS: NATO, PEPS, PINS, [illegible]
SUBJECT: [illegible] SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

REFS: (A) STATE 261771, [illegible] NOTAL;
(B) USNATO 5982 [illegible]

1. (S- ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING OCTOBER 9 POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, CANADIAN REP MADE POINTS CONTAINED PARA 5 OF REF B, BEING REPEATED TO OTTAWA REGARDING CURRENT CANADIAN INCLINATION TO DRAW MORE ON IMPLICATIONS OF AFGHAN INSTABILITY FOR PAKISTAN THAN ON LIKELIHOOD THAT THAT INSTABILITY COULD PROVOKE DIRECT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED CANADIAN REP WITH COMMENTS TRANSMITTED REF A AND REPEATED THEM IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN INTERVENTION IN POLAND. ON BOTH OCCASIONS, CANADIAN REP REGISTERED OTTAWA'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING FURTHER INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES NORTH OF THE SOVIET-AFGHAN BORDER, WHICH MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN REASSESSING THE CANADIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS AND WE NOTED THAT WE HAD MADE A STANDING REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON KEEP USUP-TO-DATE IN THIS REGARD (REF C).

3. NETHERLANDS REP REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD AND THE LOCAL TASS REPRESENTATIVE IN WHICH THE LATTER COMPLAINED THAT, AS WITH TARAKI BEFORE HIM, AMIN WAS NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT ADVICE AND WAS PRESSING REFORMS IN A CRUDE AND HASTY WAY WHICH EXACERBATED DIVISIONS WITHIN THE TRIBAL AFGHAN SOCIETY.
THE AMBASSADOR, NETHERLANDS REP ADDED, INTERPRETED THESE REMARKS AS POSSIBLY INDICATIVE OF SHRINKING SOVIET BACKING FOR AMIN. WITMAN.
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